

1 9 5 1

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to which is appended the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

of the

RURAL DISTRICT
of
MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH
Norfolk.



1 9 5 1

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to which is appended the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

of the

RURAL DISTRICT OF

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH
Norfolk.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

A.B.GUILD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W.H.EDWARDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G.DAVIES

MITFORD & LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Allwood and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The estimated population of Mitford & Launditch Rural District was 18,140, being an increase of 310 over the preceding year.

VITAL STATISTICS

293 births, of which 19 were illegitimate, were registered during the year and there were 213 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate (16.15) has increased by 1.74 per 1000 of the population as compared with 1950 (14.41) and is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales (15.5).

There were 13 still births during the year.

The births comparability factor - the ratio of the national to the local fertility index - is 1.24, the same figure as for 1950.

The number of deaths during the year - 213 - was 2 more than in 1950 and gives a death rate of 11.74, a decrease of 0.09. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.5. In the annual report for 1950 the death rate was erroneously calculated as 11.27 whereas this should have been 11.83.

The deaths comparability factor was the same as last year 0.80 indicating that mortality in Mitford and Launditch was 20% lower than in the base years 1947/48.

The still birth rate was appreciably higher, 0.70, as against last year's rate of 0.45 and the England and Wales rate of 0.36.

Although 36 more babies were born this year, there were 9 deaths of infants under one year of age giving an infant mortality rate of 37.17. Last year's rate was 38.59 while the England and Wales rate for 1951 was 29.6. Of these 9 deaths, 7 occurred under 4 weeks of age and the causes of death were prematurity 4, cerebral birth injuries 2, cardiac failure 1, the other 2 deaths, occurring at the age of 3 months, were due to broncho-pneumonia.

Infectious diseases were responsible for 20 deaths - influenza 12 and pneumonia 8.

There were 3 deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system and 1 death from non-respiratory tuberculosis, giving a mortality rate of 0.22, the England and Wales rate being 0.31.

36 deaths were due to cancer in one form or another: this was an increase of 6 over the previous year.

In dealing with a small population, such as we have in Mitford and Launditch, figures and rates comparing one year with another may give rise to misleading inferences. In the following table, with a view to providing a more accurate picture of the recent trends, I have given the relevant information under certain headings for the past 21 years.

Year	Population	Births	Birth Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Infant Deaths	Infant mortality Rate
1930	17,360 +	269	15.49	207	11.92	14	52
1931	17,040	255	14.96	202	11.85	10	39.21
1932	16,930	231	13.64	217	12.81	10	43.29
1933	16,780	252	15.01	230	13.70	15	59.52
1934	16,710	274	16.39	210	12.56	13	47.44
1935	16,620	247	14.86	273	16.42	18	72.87
1936	16,900	211	13.07	209	12.36	18	81.44
1937	16,680	259	15.58	205	12.29	15	57.69
1938	16,610	240	14.44	202	12.16	8	33.33
1939	16,620	245	14.74	238	14.32	12	48.97
1940	16,050	250	15.57	217	13.52	13	50.98
1941	16,900	273	16.15	216	12.78	11	40.29
1942	17,340	313	17.47	234	13.49	12	38.8
1943	17,720	319	18.0	223	12.58	16	50.0
1944	17,180	383	22.4	209	12.1	13	33
1945	17,090	302	17.7	193	11.2	7	23
1946	17,250	333	19.3	214	12.4	22	66
1947	17,330	351	20.3	204	11.2	12	34
1948	17,570	282	16.05	213	12.12	13	46.2
1949	17,570	299	17.7	189	11.2	8	26.8
1950	17,830	257	14.41	211	11.83	10	38.9
1951	18,140	293	16.15	213	11.74	9	37.17

+ Estimated population 1929.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

169 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year and whooping cough - 81 cases - was responsible for almost half of the notifications. Fortunately the majority of the cases were mild but whooping cough is not a disease which can ever be regarded lightly and it must not be assumed that the disease has changed its character. Vaccines against whooping cough have a certain value but their efficiency is not yet comparable to the highly effective immunisation available against diphtheria.

Measles Only 37 cases were notified. Generally speaking a large incidence of measles occurs in alternate years and as there was a high incidence in 1950 it is anticipated that there will be a much higher attack rate in 1952.

Scarlet Fever This disease, with only 7 notifications as against 27 last year, continued its present mild form.

Pneumonia The remarks in last year's report accounting for the discrepancy between the number of deaths from pneumonia and the number of notifications received apply equally this year when only 13 cases were notified.

Dysentery Of the 7 cases of bacillary (Sonne) dysentery 5 occurred in one family in Beeston. I used to associate flies with the method of spread of bacillary dysentery but my experience here would lead me to believe that a direct method of spread cannot be ruled out in all cases.

The outbreak of amoebic dysentery in the R.A.F. station at Swanton Morley came to an end early in the year with a further 4 notifications and the recognition of 15 carriers. No cases would appear to have occurred in the local civilian population.

Infectious Hepatitis The fall in the number of cases notified has continued - there being only 19 during the year.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis or food poisoning.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	Total Cases				Admitted to Hospital	Notification Rate per 1000 population	
	1951	1950	1949	1948		Mitford & Launditch	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	7	27	17	18	2	0.39	1.11
Measles	37	354	49	380	-	2.04	14.07
Whooping Cough	81	58	-	123	1	4.47	3.87
Pneumonia	13	11	24	13	5	0.72	0.99
Erysipelas	-	-	1	2	-	-	0.14
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	0.03
Infectious hepatitis	19	33	81	12	1	1.04	-
Dysentery - amoebic	4	20	2	-	4	0.22	-
Sonne	7	-	-	-	1	0.39	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	1	-	1	3.27 +	10.66 +
Poliomyelitis	-	6	-	2	-	-	0.05
Food poisoning	-	7	2	-	-	-	0.13
Diphtheria	-	-	3	-	-	-	0.02
Total	169	517	181	550			

+ Rate per 1000 total(live and still births)

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total
Scarlet fever	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	7
Measles	2	1	3	4	4	15	3	4	-	-	1	-	-	37
Whooping cough	4	5	6	7	8	46	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	81
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	7	13
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	3	4	2	4	-	1	19
Dysentery - Sonne	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	7
- amoebic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	6	7	11	12	14	67	6	18	8	4	6	1	9	169

Tuberculosis

19 cases were added to the register during the year, 15 of these being new cases and the remaining 4 being inward transfers from other districts.

The comparative figures for the preceding three years were:-

1948 - 21

1949 - 20

1950 - 26

The distribution of the 19 cases by age and sex are given in the following table:-

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-	2	-	1	-
5-	-	-	3	1 (a)
15-	-	2 (a)	-	-
25-	-	3 (a)	-	1 (a)
35-	2	-	-	1
45-	-	1	-	-
55-	-	1	1	-
	4	7	5	3

(a) denotes one inward transfer

There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis, 3 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory, giving a mortality rate of 0.22 as compared with 0.39 in 1950. The rate for England and Wales was 0.31.

The numbers remaining on the register were:-

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Grand Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.50.	26	26	52	26	19	45	97
31.12.51.	20	29	49	23	17	40	89

4 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, East Dereham for tuberculosis.

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1000 of the population in 1951 are given below with the data for Mitford and Launditch in brackets for purposes of comparison.

Formal Notifications

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-Respiratory	Case Rate
226 (9)	0.60 (0.44)	93 (6)	0.25 (0.29)

The mortality figures for the same period were

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-Respiratory	Case Rate
56 (3)	0.15 (0.15)	9 (1)	0.02 (0.05)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	1	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	5	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	5	16
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	8	25
Coronary disease, angina	15	4	19
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
Other heart disease	20	32	52
Other circulatory disease	2	4	6
Influenza	3	9	12
Pneumonia	6	2	8
Bronchitis	2	6	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	11	18
All other accidents	6	2	8
Suicide	1	-	1
	108	105	213

Deaths Comparability Factor

This factor was 0.80 and indicates that mortality in Mitford and Launditch in 1951 was 20% lower than in the base years 1947/48.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	102,371
Population (Estimated mid 1951)	18,140
Rateable Value	£ 48,166
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	£ 210

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year, relating to the net births and deaths after correction for outward and inward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General.

	Males	Females	Total	Mitford & Launditch 1951	1950	England & Wales 1951
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	139	135	274			
Illegitimate	10	9	19			
Total	149	144	293			
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population				16.15	14.41.	15.5
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	7	5	12			
Illegitimate	-	1	1			
Total	7	6	13			
Still Birth Rate per 1000 resident population				0.70	0.45	0.36
<u>DEATHS</u> (All ages)	108	105	213			
Crude Death Rate per 1000 resident population				11.74	11.83	12.5
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (Under 1 year)						
Legitimate	4	3	7			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Total	4	3	7			
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 live births				37.17	38.59	29.6

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme

During the year immunisations carried out by general practitioners and by the Assistant County Medical Officer at Village Weighing Centres and at schools after routine medical inspections were as follows:-

	<u>Full Course</u>			<u>Reinforcing</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
Under 5	5 - 14	Total		All ages	
181	245	426		546	972

Records held in my office show the immunisation state of the child community in Mitford and Launditch to be as under:-

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14
Born in year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1942-46	1937-41
	9	96	124	135	190	1361	960

Approximately 35% of the children in the age groups 0-4 and 85% of the children in the age group 5 - 14 have been immunised.

No cases of diptheria were notified. In Weasenham a girl was found, after a throat swab had been taken, to be carrying virulent diptheria bacilli. Laboratory investigations of contacts were carried out and 7 other children showed the virulent organisms in the nose or/and throat. These 7 cases cleared up comparatively quickly but the original carrier - in whose case tonsillectomy was refused - remained positive despite penicillin and sulphonamide therapy for 7 months.

Vaccination

There has been an appreciable increase in the number of vaccinations and revaccinations during the year although a 25% rate cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The number of vaccinations in 1950 was 76.

<u>Primary</u>				<u>Revaccinations</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
Under 1	1-4	5-14	15 & over		
79	23	-	6	48	156

Housing

The summary of the inspections under the Rural Housing Survey last year showed the position to be as under:-

1)	Satisfactory	588
2)	Minor Repairs	382
3)	Major Repairs	1521
4)	Reconstruction	373
5)	Demolition	776
6)	Disused	128

The housing shortage problem remains as acute as ever even though there has been a slight reduction in the number of applicants on the housing list from 514 on 31st December, 1950, to 492 on 31st December, 1951. There is little doubt that the rent for a new Council house now presents an important economic factor particularly as many cottages are still rented at around 3/6d per week. The above summary indicates the high percentage of cottages requiring major and minor repairs; several years rent can easily disappear in effecting very minor repairs. Until the existing legislation is amended the increasing disrepair of houses must be an ever continuing process.

The number of houses erected in 1951 was:-

1)	By the Local Authority	60
2)	By private enterprise	14

The houses were erected by the Local Authority at:-

Billingford	8	Lyng	2
Colkirk	4	Mattishall	14
E.Tuddenham	3	N.Elmham	4
Foxley	2	Scarning	2
Hardingham	4	Whissonsett	12

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The appropriate action was taken under Part VII of the above regulations in 10 cases where Brucella Abortus and 4 cases where tubercle bacillus were found in milk samples, collected by the County Milk Sampling Officer, on laboratory examination.

No case of undulant fever in man was notified.

District Water Schemes

North Elmham, Mattishall and Shipdham

These three schemes have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval, and an Engineering Inspector from the Ministry has held a local Inquiry into the schemes. The Minister's decision, as a result of the Inspector's Inquiry, is now awaited. In both Elmham and Mattishall a new bore will have to be sunk, but in the case of Shipdham, a supply will be obtained, in bulk, from the Swaffham Rural District Council.

Rougham and Whissonsett

Schemes for a Parish Water Supply in each of the above villages, based on the use of the existing Council House bore, have been submitted to the Minister for approval. The Minister has now authorised the Council to have both bores test pumped, and if a satisfactory result is obtained it is presumed that we will be allowed to go forward with these two Schemes.

Litcham

A Scheme, based on the sinking of a new bore on the existing Council Housing Site, has been submitted to the Minister for approval, and the Minister has now authorised the Council to invite tenders for the sinking of the bore. When the bore is sunk and the test pumping results are known, once again it is anticipated that authority will be given to proceed with this Scheme.

It is the Council's intention, with the approval of the Minister, to proceed with further Parish Supply Schemes, and when some progress is made on the schemes outlined above, further Parish Schemes will be submitted for approval.

Well Water Cyanosis in Infants

It is known that children have become cyanosed within 24 hours of artificial feeding with water having a high nitrate content. In order to prevent cases of methaemoglobinaemia the County Medical Officer instituted investigations where water supplies, particularly from shallow well, were to be used for the purpose of artificial feeding of infants. 16 samples were taken and of these 8 were bacteriologically unsatisfactory while 1 had an excessive nitrate content. There have been no cases of cyanosis in this district.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services Under Part III

Domestic Help Service

The County Council's service has been increasingly used and now 1 part time and 24 occasional helps are regularly employed in the district. 50 households were provided with this service during the year.

Mental Health - Administration

There has been no change in the arrangements, Mr. A. Boothman, Local Welfare Officer, being responsible for the major part of the district.

Miss Cumming (Headquarter staff) Home Teacher for mental defectives holds an occupation centre at Beech House, Gressenhall once fortnightly.

Close co-ordination exists between the hospital authorities and the Local Welfare Officers who act as Duly Authorised Officers. These officers carry out statutory supervision of ascertained mental defectives and defectives under guardianship living in the community, and supervision of patients on licence or on leave at the request of the Superintendent of the mental defectives colony.

Similar supervision of mental patients on trial, licence or on leave is carried out by arrangement with the Superintendents of the mental hospitals.

The British Red Cross Society undertake home teaching of mental defectives in some cases.

During the early part of the year the Local Welfare Officers completed a refresher course held at the Mental Hospital in connection with their duties as duly authorised officers and in preparing social history reports and carrying out after-care work.

12 cases have been dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and care and after-care work has been carried out in 10 cases at the request of the mental hospital.

No new cases have been ascertained during the past year. One case is awaiting admission to an institution (low grade mental defective awaiting admission for over 3 years).

14 cases under statutory supervision.
2 cases under friendly supervision.

Four mental defectives are receiving home teaching either by the Council's Home Teacher or through the British Red Cross Society.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Action had to be taken under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 in the case of an old woman - a widow living alone at Shipdham - as her few remaining relatives were unable to look after her.

This woman was anaemic, had heart trouble and was believed to have fallen into the fire place on several occasions fortunately without sustaining any severe injury.

Village Weighing Centres

These continued to be well attended on the whole and the attendance at Beoston and N. Elmham has improved.

A new centre, opened at Lyng, has been very popular.

Some of the isolated parts of the district are not very close to the existing centres and proposals have been submitted to deal with some of these.

Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

I would take this opportunity to express my thanks to this Council for allowing me to attend this Congress, held in April at Southport, as their delegate.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Number of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	12	3	Nil
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	80	4	Nil
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	63	92	7	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector
Want of clearliness (S.1.)	7	6	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	14	12	-	-

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

There is no Appointed Factory Doctor for Mitford & Launditch R.D. and the duties automatically fall on the Medical Officer of Health. During the year '79 juveniles were examined for fitness for employment in factories, 52 of whom were resident in Mitford & Launditch.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

A. B. GUILD

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year 1951

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Allwood and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1951.

Water Supply

1. The quality of the water supply throughout the Area has not been satisfactory.

A total of 130 samples from 75 wells and bores were submitted for analysis with the following results:-

(a) Wells - 53. No. of samples taken - 92
Satisfactory - 23. Unsatisfactory - 69.

The unsatisfactory samples were those taken in the first instance where pollution was suspected or water level was very low. Repeat samples taken after cleaning out also proved unsatisfactory, although great improvement occurred after pumping out and cleaning.

(b) Bores - 22. No. of samples taken - 38.
Satisfactory - 17. Unsatisfactory - 16.
Suspicious - 5.

These bores are sunk to an average depth of 180 - 200 feet, and samples taken have shown intermittent and varying amounts of B. Coli and Faecal Coli in the water.

Every effort was made to ascertain the source of pollution.

2. Quantity

The shortage of 1950 extended into 1951. During the first months of the year water was carted to 45 sites in 20 Parishes. The situation gradually improved and at the end of the year under review, water was being supplied to 12 sites situated in 8 Parishes.

In cases where the existing supply could not be rendered fit without considerable expense, arrangements were made with owners to provide a supply of wholesome water on a repayment basis.

Piped Supply. No general public supply.

A piped supply derived from the water mains of the East Dorham Urban District is available to 26 houses situated in the Parish of Scarning, on the outskirts of Dorham. 16 houses have a direct supply and 2 are supplied by standpipe.

3. Water liable to plumbo-solvent action - Nil.

4. Action taken in respect of any form of Contamination.

118 visits have been made to inspect water supplies. Shallow wells have been pumped out cleaned and repaired. In some cases these wells have been deepened. Bores have also been sunk either in the wells or on new ground.

5. Private Mains Supply

Piped supply from a bore on each site supplies the new Council Houses situated in the following Parishes.

Mattishall, Elsing, Lyng, Sparham, Foxley, Billingford, Swanton Morley, Hardingham, Whinburgh, Dunham, Rougham, Weasenham, Tittleshall, Whissonsett, Colkirk, Guist, Brisley and E. Tuddenham.

The new Housing Site at North Elmham is supplied from a bore at Old Hall Farm, North Elmham.

Samples taken from these Bores for Bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

Sewerage

No major works of construction or reconstruction of sewers were undertaken during the year, but sections of the piped sewer at Elmham were improved.

The open sewer ditches at Elmham, Weasenham, Litcham, and Shipdham were cleaned out, thereby improving the flow and preventing serious nuisance. 49 inspections were made.

Sewerage disposal installations serve 18 new Council House Sites. It has been found necessary to pump out these septic tanks and pumping chambers more frequently than is usual with the type of plant installed.

In my opinion, the 8 hour retention period as recommended in the Ministry's Housing Manual is insufficient to allow proper precipitation and this causes extraneous matter to float through into the pumping chamber, causing blockage of the foot valves and failure of the pumping unit, 76 inspections were carried out by my Department.

Drainage

An increasing number of owner occupiers are converting earth closets into water carriage systems and installing sinks and baths.

34 New private drainage systems were constructed during the year.
19 Drainage systems were found defective or obsolete and were reconstructed to modern standards.

Sanitary Accommodation

Very few of the old insanitary privy vaults remain. The menace of flies and other vermin which infest these conveniences is realised, and also the benefit of a weekly removal of night soil from the premises by the Scavenging Service provided by the Council. 7 privy vaults were converted to earth closets. 6 urinals at Public Houses were rebuilt during the year, and additional sanitary conveniences constructed for the private use of the Licensee.

Scavenging

The scheme covering the whole of the District is carried out by Messrs. Edwin Clark Ltd., (Contractors) of Aveley, Essex under the general supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The disposal of night soil, i.e. the contents of sanitary pails and cesspools, has not presented much difficulty. Two methods are employed, (i) Spraying on stubble fields and other land prior to ploughing.
(ii) Composting.

Both methods have proved satisfactory. The prejudice against using this material, which was very much apparent at the commencement of the scheme, has now disappeared.

In addition to the weekly removal of night soil, 562 septic tanks and cesspools were pumped out during the year.

The pumping out of septic tanks at some of the Council House Sites, and at private houses, has been rendered very difficult owing to the non-existence of an access roadway to the plant, and the distance from the highway to the cesspools situated at the rear of the houses.

The removal of house refuse at fortnightly intervals, is greatly appreciated, but the amount collected during the past year compared with that of the previous year did not diminish.

Disposal is by tipping into disused gravel or clay pits. Those used are situated as centrally as possible.

The surface of the refuse is sprayed weekly with insecticide, and the tipping edge covered with soil.

The refuse dumps could be greatly improved, and rendered less unsightly if levelled down frequently with a small bulldozer or other similar mechanical device.

The dumps are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Officers, and treated by the Council's Rat Catchers, resulting in practically eliminating rats and other vermin from the sites.

Concerning the operation of the scheme, and taking into consideration the large area covered, complaints are few in comparison as shown by the figures given below:-

Total No. of servicings (night soil collection) during the year	-	334000
" " " " (house refuse ") " " "		130000
" " " cesspools serviced	...	<u>562</u>
Total		<u>464562</u>

No. of complaints received - 150 or one complaint per 3097 servicings.

176 inspections and visits were made to deal with the more serious complaints.

Overflowing cesspools have been found to be defective, or require more efficient means of overflow. Advice is given to remedy these faults.

Non collection of night soil or house refuse is due to inaccessibility of the premises especially in inclement weather, change over of personnel, and of premises overlooked by the operators.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

In accordance with the provisions of the above Act a direct labour scheme was instituted in June 1951. 3 operators were appointed working individually, and using their own cycles for transport, each man being apportioned approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Rural Area.

In the first instance training in the approved Ministry methods of disinfection was undertaken by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant following which a course of practical instruction was arranged in conjunction with an Agricultural Executive Committee Demonstration Squad.

Up to the end of the year a total of 4191 inspections were made, and those are classified as under:-

Type of Property	No. Inspected	Infestation	
		Major	Minor
L.A. property	15	4	11
Dwellings	3480	73	802
Agricultural	501	8	175
Business Premises	195	6	47
<u>Total</u>	<u>4191</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>1035</u>

From the above table it will be observed that of the total number of properties inspected there was an overall infestation rate of 26.86%. It is anticipated however that, with continued systematic inspection and treatment throughout the area, this figure will show a marked decline for the ensuing year.

It was not necessary to take any legal action under the Act. Some differences of opinion occurred as to the degree of infestation. These were taken up by my Department, and settled amicably and satisfactorily.

59 visits were made to deal with complaints of infestation.

Housing

No. of inspections and re-inspections of property under the Housing & Public Health Acts ...	151
Preliminary Notices served ...	55
Work completed as a result ...	48
Houses improved by other informal action ...	26
Statutory Notices served ...	3
Work completed ...	2
No. of houses considered incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense ...	8
Undertakings not to re-let accepted ...	2
Demolition Orders made ...	3
Derelict houses demolished ...	4
Houses demolished ...	3
Inspections made re Building Licences ...	115
" " " Proposed " " ...	7
" " " Improvement Grant ...	3
Houses improved under the Housing Act, 1949 ...	1

Sale of Food & Drugs Act

There are 26 cafes and catering establishments in the Area, in addition to 8 school canteens.

Visits to cafes and catering establishments	...	38
Shops	...	65
Fish frying premises	...	15
Fish frying mobile vans	...	6
Food preparing establishments	...	8
Bakehouses	...	22

During the year, Messrs. Corbatch Cannery Ltd. transferred their production of tinned fruit and vegetables from Swaffham to a new establishment at Beeston. Previous to the commencement of production and regularly during the year, visits have been made in connection with the provisions of this Act and the Factory Act.

Unfit Foods

213 lbs. of food stuffs ranging from cake mixture and tinned fruit to German tinned ham, and 132 lbs. of beef were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Inspection of Meat

Your Sanitary Inspector who is also a qualified Meat & Food Inspector carries out inspection of carcasses at the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse in Dereham jointly with the Surveyor to the Urban District.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Rural Area. The one person previously licensed has now ceased production.

There are 38 registered retailers of wrapped ice cream in the area, an increase of 13 over the preceding year.

17 samples of ice cream and 5 samples of lollies were submitted for analysis, and were reported upon as follows:-

<u>Ice Cream</u>	<u>Iced Lollies</u>
6 Grade 1	3 Satisfactory
8 " 2	2 Unsatisfactory
3 " 3	<u>5</u>
<u>17</u>	

Although the number of ice cream samples submitted for analysis is less than the number of registered dealers a sample of each brand retailed in the area was submitted for analysis. In the case of poor sample reports, repeat samples were taken, and the co-operation of colleagues in whose area the manufacturing premises were situated was enlisted, with a resultant improvement in the quality of the supply.

Iced Lollies

Unsatisfactory water supply was found to be the cause of the two adverse sample reports. Action was taken in both cases to improve the supply. One well was rendered wholesome, and in the other case, manufacture was stopped pending rectification of the supply. Samples of aerated water and proprietary brands of flavouring used in the manufacture of iced lollies were examined, and found to be satisfactory.

Petrol Licences

Your Sanitary Inspector is also Petroleum Officer to the Council and investigates all applications for the storage of petrol in the area. 18 new applications were approved.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. EDWARDS,

Sanitary Inspector.



